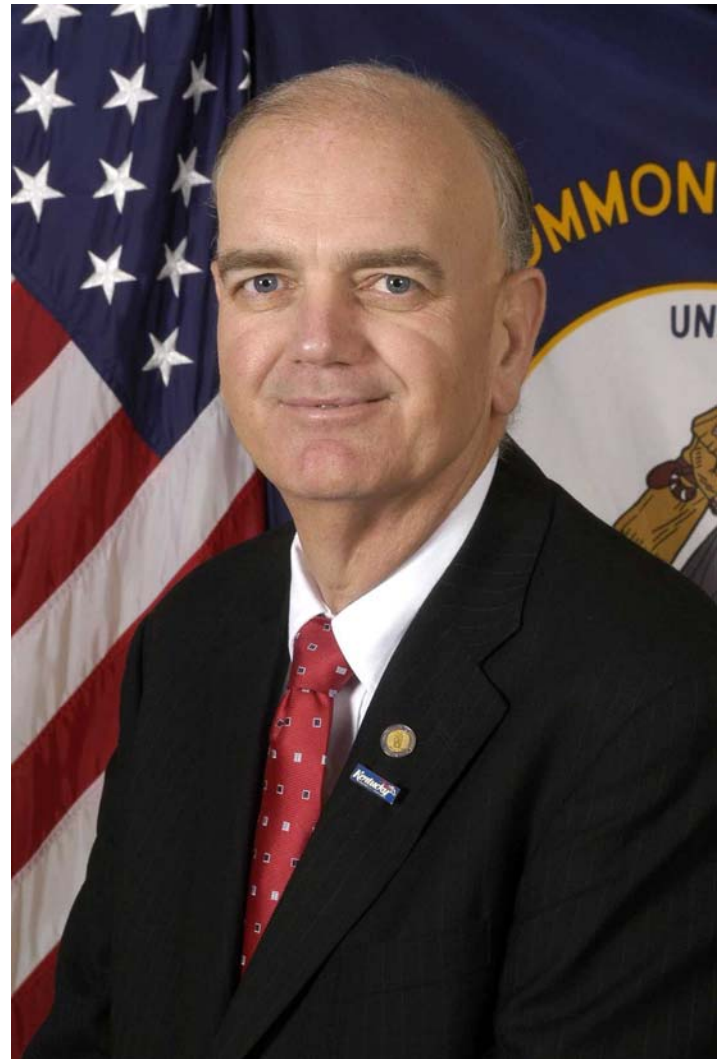


Message from the Secretary



In June, Kentucky and the nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of our Interstate Highway System. Nationwide, there are more than 46,000 miles of limited-access, divided roadway from north to south and east to west. The effort it took to build the interstate system just might be the greatest public works project in history.

Construction on Kentucky's interstate network began in the 1960's. Today, there are more than 760 miles of interstate highways in our state, including more than 200 miles of urban interstates. The interstates are so much a part of daily life that most people take for granted the interstate system they use to get to work, to school, to the mall, and to vacation destinations.

Travel on Kentucky's interstate highways is nearly three times safer than travel on other roads. Our interstates provide a wide array of engineering safety designs that greatly reduce the likelihood of crashes. While travel on our interstate system in Kentucky has shown significant increases over the decades, the system itself remains our safest for motorists.

The importance of today's interstate system to Kentucky's economy can not be overstated. The interstate network provides entry points for goods and products to come into Kentucky while providing delivery routes for Kentucky products destined for other parts of the country.

Research studies show that close to \$200 billion in goods are shipped annually from Kentucky while another \$160 billion in goods are shipped annually to sites inside our borders. Those goods are moved mostly by commercial trucks which use our interstate system. The interstate system is vital to Kentucky's economy.

Many of the economic strides made by cities and communities along the interstate routes during the past several decades can be attributed in some part to the interstate network. In fact, studies today show that the overwhelming majority of new economic sites are developed within five miles of an interstate highway.

With the Governor's leadership and the General Assembly's

approval, Kentucky is spending more than \$400 million dollars to make improvements to many of our major interstate routes. With Kentucky's existing interstate network and our planned integration of Interstate 66 and Interstate 69, economic potential is being unleashed for communities all across our great Commonwealth.

In Kentucky, and across the nation, plans are in the pipeline for more interstate construction. Older routes are being upgraded too, to meet future needs, reflecting the vitality of the interstate concept 50 years after it was put into law.

Bill Nighbert

Secretary's Open Door Session—Watch your email for the next open door session with Secretary Bill Nighbert. The weekly sessions are announced via postmaster for the upcoming week and are open to all KYTC employees. Employees will be seen on a first come/first serve basis. Your thoughts and comments are important to this administration and we appreciate your continued help and support. The purpose of these sessions is to provide employees with an outlet to voice their concerns, questions, and suggestions and to help create a more open environment within the Cabinet.